



Country Report - Nepal

Nepal National Training on Circular Economy Indicators, 13-19 May 2025

under the European Commission funded project on Enhancing countries' capacity for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy, 2024-2026

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1. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development and its monitoring. The UN Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 5/11 (2022) on Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production invites Member States to integrate circular economy approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans. In this regard, the UNECE Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy, formed of international, regional and national organizations, developed the statistical framework intended to be the international statistical framework used to measure the progress of countries in their transition to a circular economy.

This project aims to build capacity to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy in the context of sustainable development at different levels. Enhancing institutional technical capacities to regularly produce circular economy and waste datasets is imperative to inform and develop evidence-based policies. The project focuses on various Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and others related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (material footprint, domestic material consumption, circular material use rate, material productivity), waste (municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, national recycling rate, food waste and loss), water (water stress, pollutants discharges to water bodies) and emissions (greenhouse gas emissions).

Newly developed tools were used to assist in the compilation of the data necessary to calculate the above-mentioned indicators. These tools are formed of (i) Excel spreadsheets containing detailed variables that are calculated together to generate the value of indicators, and (ii) step-by-step documents to guide government officials on filling the Excel spreadsheets.

2. General training information

The training was held at the National Statistics Office (NSO) premises between 13 and 19 May 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The training was attended by 16 participants, 69% were males and 31% were females. Participants attending the training were government officials (by alphabetical order) from the Department of Environment, Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Ministry of Forests and Environment, National Planning Commission, National Statistics Office, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, and Water and Energy Commission Secretariat.

Participants attended the sessions on sustainable consumption and production indicators including the following indicators: Material footprint (SDG indicator 8.4.1/12.2.1), Domestic material consumption (SDG indicator 8.4.2/12.2.2), Circular material use rate, Material productivity, water indicators including Water stress (SDG indicator 6.4.2) and Wastewater (SDG indicator 6.3.1) and the sessions on waste indicators including Municipal solid waste (SDG 11.6.1), Hazardous waste (SDG indicator 12.4.2), National recycling rate (SDG indicator 12.5.1), Food waste and loss (SDG indicator 12.3.1) and Greenhouse gas emissions (SDG indicator 13.2.2). All materials were shared with participants during the training, including presentations, Excel tools as well as other training related materials.

3. Key observations and recommendations

The National Statistics Office is committed to improving the availability of statistics related to circular economy indicators. Although data gaps exist and must be addressed, participants identified various strategies to improve administrative data and use them as data sources. In addition, although 8 national and local institutions representatives were present and benefited from the training, additional institutions were identified during the training as potential data providers.

Overall, all training participants were collaborating among themselves and with the trainer. This was detectable from the willingness to share available knowledge, data and experiences. Various discussions took place in relation to identifying sources of data. Furthermore, challenges related to inadequate collaboration and coordination among institutions were highlighted and participants discussed the need for improvement, given that circular economy is a cross-cutting topic that require coordination among multiple national and local institutions.

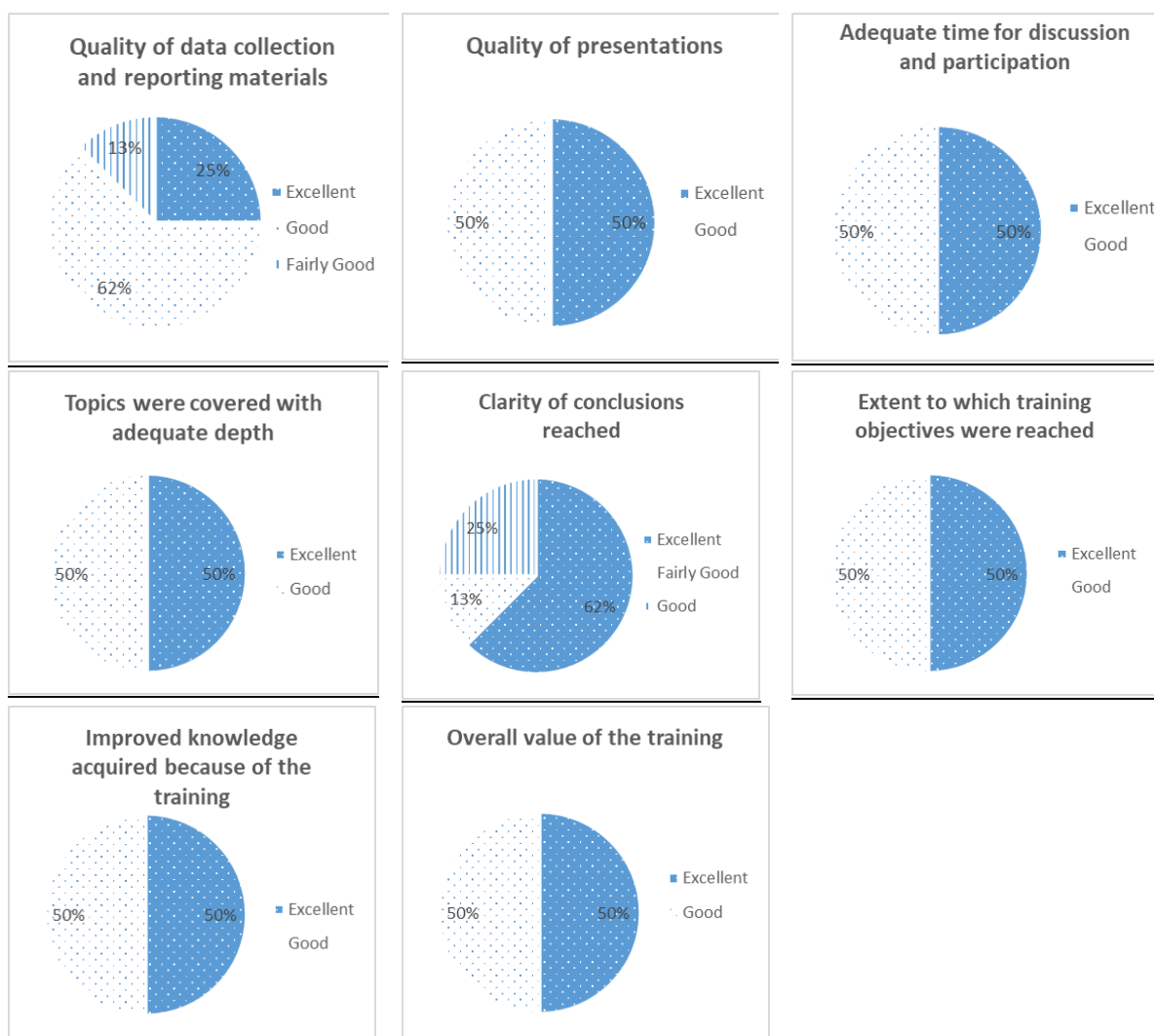
Specific requests to continue assisting the NSO in building the statistical capacities related to material flow accounts compilation and the system of environmental economic accounting as well as global footprint tool were discussed. The NSO is committed to work on material flow accounts compilation and try to incorporate it in their yearly working plan. The mentioned requests were discussed with respective UNEP colleagues for possible future assistance.

4. Training Evaluation

Quality of technical material

Eight participants (50% of total participants) responded to the online anonymous evaluation of the training, which was available online for more than 3 weeks. 25% of respondents rated excellent the quality of data collection and reporting materials, while 50% rated excellent the quality of the presentations as well as the adequate time allocated for discussion and participation. 50% rated excellent the coverage of topics with adequate depth and 62% rated excellent the clarity of the conclusions reached. Half of respondents rated excellent (a) the extent to which the training objectives were reached, (b) improved knowledge acquired by the training, and (c) the value of the training.

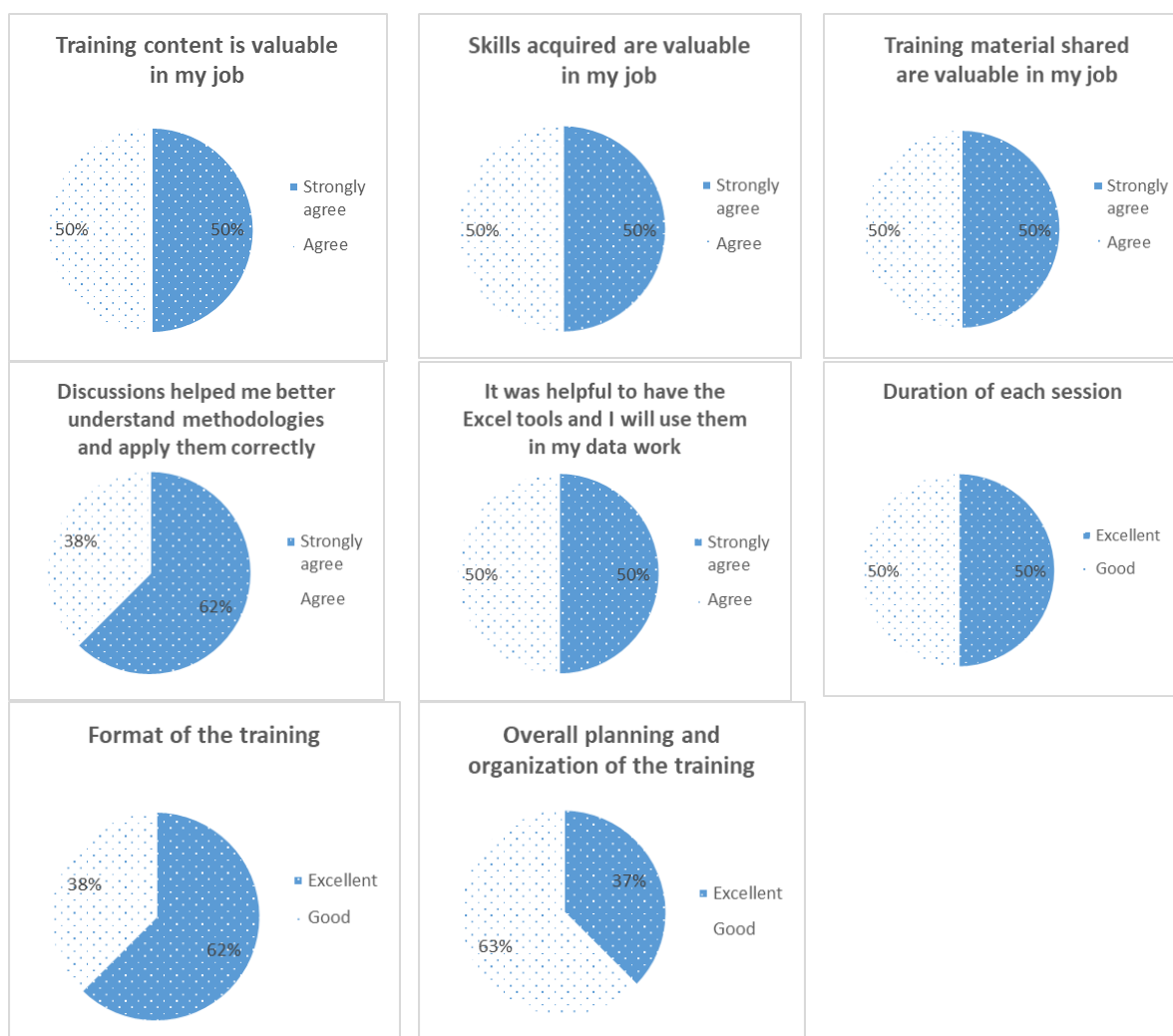
Additional comments from respondents revolved around the good quality, explicit and clear content of the shared data collection documents and the adequate delivery of the training material that served the objectives of the training. One respondent noted that the quality of the data collection and reporting materials were insufficient for the practical exercises and needed improvement.



Content and conduct of the presentations

50% of respondents strongly agreed that (a) the training content is valuable to their job, (b) the skills acquired are valuable to their job and (c) the training material shared are valuable to their job. In addition, 62% strongly agreed that discussions helped them better understand methodologies and how to apply them correctly, and 50% strongly agreed that the Excel tools were helpful and they will be used in performing data work.

Respondents commented on the (a) organization of the training that is commendable and stated that the training provided valuable learning opportunities for the trainees, (b) “Nepal should adopt a circular economy model to promote sustainable consumption and production, efficient material use, and the reduction of waste, water usage, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To support this transition effectively, it is essential to continuously strengthen statistical capacities, enabling better monitoring, evaluation, and progress tracking of circular economy practices”. One respondent stated that as a result of the training, Nepal can now compile material flow accounts.



Organization of the training

50% rated excellent the duration of each session while 62% rated excellent the format of the training. Overall, 37% rated excellent the planning and organizing of the training.

One comment was received on the length of the training and proposed to have the training 10-15 days long.

5. Training documentation

List of participants

Name of participant	Institution	Email
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Agenda

Tuesday 13 May 2025	
Session 1: Opening and introduction	
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome remarks - Nepal National Statistics Office - Therese El Gemayel (UNEP)
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the project and training objectives Introduction of participants Introduction to the training and presentation of the agenda and materials.
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation by the Nepal Statistics Office about environment statistics, environmental accounts in Nepal. National data sources and main stakeholders. Presentation by the Nepal Statistics Office about Material Flow Accounts. National data sources and stakeholders.
12:00 – 13:00	Presentation UNEP about Material Flow Accounts and related indicators. Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
Wednesday 14 May 2025	
Session 2: Material Flow Accounts (EW-MFA)	
10:00 – 11:00	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts
Thursday 15 May 2025	
Session 3: Waste (Municipal solid waste and hazardous waste)	

10:00 – 10:30	Presentation by Nepal institutions (the Nepal Statistics Office and any other agencies or ministries) about waste statistics and accounts in Nepal. National data sources and stakeholders.
10:30 -11:00	Presentation by UNEP about circular economy indicators related to waste
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation by UNEP – <i>continued</i> Practical work about waste indicators
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practical work about waste indicators
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Practical work about waste indicators
Friday 16 May 2025	
Session 4: Waste (Municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, food losses and food waste)	
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation by Nepal institutions (the Nepal Statistics Office and any other agencies or ministries) about food losses and food waste. National data sources and stakeholders.
10:30 -11:00	Presentation by UNEP about circular economy indicators related to food
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation by UNEP – <i>continued</i> Practical work about waste indicators
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practical work about waste indicators

Sunday 18 May 2025	
Session 5: Level of water stress and wastewater treatment	
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation by Nepal institutions (the Nepal Statistics Office and any other agencies or ministries) about the level of water stress and wastewater production and treatment. Water statistics and accounts. National data sources and stakeholders.
10:30 -11:00	Presentation by UNEP about circular economy indicators related to water
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation by UNEP - <i>continued</i> Practical work about water stress and wastewater discharges indicators
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Practical work about water stress and wastewater discharges indicators
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Practical work about water stress and wastewater discharges indicators
Monday 19 May 2025	
Session 5: Air emissions and Material Flow Accounts (WE-MFA)	
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation by Nepal institutions (the Nepal Statistics Office and any other agencies or ministries) about the air emissions statistics, accounts and inventories. National data sources and stakeholders.

10:30 -11:00	Presentation by UNEP about the circular economy indicator related to air emissions
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Practical work about air emissions indicator
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Practical work about Material Flow Accounts and circular economy indicators.
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation of training outcomes and conclusions Next steps Closing remarks

Photos



